

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2014 at 6 PM
Ella Risk Library

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Chair Anna Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Present were Sonia Grace, Stephanie Gonzalez, Diosa Martinez, and Carlos Tobon. Ana-Cecilia Rosado and Hugo Figueroa were absent.
- II. Pledge
- III. Ms. Morales, Chair, acknowledged the presence of a group of students representing Kids in the Canyon. The students were invited to speak. John Valdez, acting as spokesperson, informed the Trustees of an all-expense paid invitation to New York to participate in the Spartan Race. Approximately one dozen high school students will be attending along with five chaperones.
- IV. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 25, 2014 - A motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2014, was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried (5,0)
- V. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget and Facility Improvements - A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Martinez. Motion carried (5,0)
- VI. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirements- The following names were submitted by Dr. Gallo for appointment approval: Kem Edwards, Finance Director, Michael Templeton, Principal of Ella Risk School, Sara Cavanaugh, Special Educator; Susan Arenas resigned her liaison position. A motion to approve the personnel actions was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried. (5,0). The Chair invited Mr. Edwards and Mr. Templeton to introduce themselves. Both spoke eloquently to the Trustees expressing their excitement and their high expectations for their respective work in Central Falls.
- VII. Discussion of CF High School's NEASC Report and follow-up expectations – Mr. LaPlante introduced Intern Assistant, Daniel Smith, and then presented the NEASC report in binders to each of the trustees. Mr. LaPlante noted the commendations and recommendations and expressed his intent to use a protocol as he facilitated a discussion among the Trustees that would bring everyone into a close reading of Standards I and VII. The Trustees and all in attendance fully participated in the

- protocol process and developed action steps for following up on the recommendations over the course of the next several months. The Trustees commented positively about the exercise.
- VIII. Update on the development of Center for Teaching, Learning and Research- This Center was described by Dr. Gallo at the April 8th meeting as a place where student teachers and graduate assistants could be housed while they work with mentoring and tutoring the students of our schools during after school hours and where during their workday they would be carrying out the duties involved in research or student teaching in various locations across the city. The community is still hopeful that 115 Illinois St. will be transformed soon.
- IX. RIDE Presentation on full integration of special education students - Dr. Gallo noted that the RIDE presentation will occur at the May 13th meeting. Dr. Gallo reiterated the importance of the plan for full integration calling attention to the recent decisions of the Federal Justice Department work that further validates the plan.
- X. Superintendent Comments- Dr. Gallo asked Mr. St. Jean to provide the Trustees with an update about the student and teacher reception of the PARCC testing. Mr. St. Jean spoke about the few glitches and relative smooth technology run. The students actually preferred the computer use to the paper test. The level of content difficulty caused exasperation on the part of the students. Their reception of the assessment in that regard was not so favorable. The RIC/CF Innovation Lab work continues to move forward as planning for a celebration of the work on May 3 is coming together nicely. Also, grants for two VISTA volunteers have been submitted. These individuals would assist the Innovation Lab in overseeing the progress of our efforts together.

Dr. Gallo made a special note to congratulate Catherine Fox for the honor of being recognized as the WIDA's Featured Educator for April 2014. Ms. Fox was selected for her demonstrated excellence in the service of English language Learners in the Central falls School District.

Dr. Gallo highlighted the Breaking Ranks invitation to the CFHS to present at their conference in San Diego in February 2015.

Lastly, Dr. Gallo spoke about the planning for a Neighborhood Health Station in central Falls as a large community effort including the mayor, Dr. Fine, from the Department of Health, and numerous community partners.

- XI. Public Comment- No one signed up for public comment.
- XII. Board Comment – As the Chair noted during the April 8th Board meeting that she would like the Trustees to consider passing a resolution opposing contract continuation, Ms. Cano Morales reiterated her desire. Ms. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the resolution opposing contract continuation; this was seconded by Ms. Grace. During the discussion clarifying questions were asked and answered. Opinions were shared. The Chair called the vote. Motion carried. (5,0)
Ms. Morales also noted for the record that the personnel of Central falls Schools were well represented on Latino Public Radio this past weekend and also noted that TALL University students brought their learning strategies to Rhode Island College in their comedy workshop.
- XIII. Next Scheduled Meeting: May 13, 2014 at 6 PM at the Ella Risk School.
- XIV. Adjournment – At 7:45 PM motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez.